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SRI S. DAIVASIGAMONEY :—" I find from the statement laid on the table of the House that out of the eight members in the committee, five of them had been appointed by the Government of India to represent their interests and there are only three members to represent the Government of Madras. May I know whether these appointments were made in consultation with our Government or they were made *suo motu?* "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" This Committee was constituted after full consultation with this Government and, at the same time, I may tell the hon. Member that this Government and the Central Government are not two independent units. Further, I may add that the Central Government have taken up the entire financial responsibility for the investigation of this project from 1st of January last."

Service conditions of workers in Neyveli Lignite Project.

9-20 p.m. * 1357 *Q.*—SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any representation was received by the Government in December 1954 from the Trade Union of the workers employed in the Neyveli Lignite Project regarding wages and service conditions ; and

(*b*) if so, the action taken thereon.

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (a) No, Sir.

" (*b*) Does not arise."

Merger of the Prohibition department with the Police department.

* 1358 *Q.*—SRI M. DHARMALINGAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of officers with their grade of the Prohibition Department, absorbed in the Police Department consequent on the merger of the Prohibition Department with the Police Department ;

(*b*) the number of persons thrown out of the employment owing to the merger ; and

(*c*) the number of persons, if any, reverted to their parent department?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" (*a*) The Prohibition Department has not been merged with the Police Department but the work of enforcement of Prohibition has been transferred to the Police Department throughout the State with effect from 3rd January 1955. The officers and the staff previously employed in the Excise Prohibition Department both permanent and temporary have been divided between the Board of Revenue (Excise) for residuary work and the Police Department for enforcement work in

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all the districts. The number of Gazetted Officers of the Excise and Prohibition Department transferred to the Police Department with their grades is as follows :---

Assistant Commissioners of Excise	.. ..	2
Inspectors of Excise, Grade I	.. ..	2
,, Grade II	.. ..	2
,, Grade III	.. ..	5
,, Grade IV	.. ..	11
Total	..	22

" (b) & (c) None."

MR. SPEAKER :—" Questions Nos. 1359 to 1361 will be taken up together."

Steel plant.

* 1359 *Q.*—SRI P. RANGASWAMI REDDIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any Soviet experts recently visited this State and inspected various sites, for the location of a steel plant;

(*b*) if so, the places visited by them and the site recommended for the said purpose;

(*c*) whether any German experts visited this State for the same purpose some time back; and if so, the site recommended by them for setting up the steel plant;

(*d*) the difference in opinion, if any, between the German experts and Soviet experts in the matter;

(*e*) the representation made by this Government to the said experts regarding the iron and lignite deposits in this State;

(*f*) whether the Chief Minister of this State had any discussion with the said experts and, if so, with what results; and

(*g*) the final decision of the Government regarding the setting up of steel plant?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) & (*b*) The Soviet experts visited Madras City on the 19th and 20th December 1954; but they did not inspect any site in this State for the location of a steel plant.

" (*c*) No, Sir.

" (*d*) Does not arise.

" (*e*) & (*f*) The possibilities of setting up an iron and steel industry in this State using Salem Iron Ores and South Arcot Lignite were generally discussed at a Conference with the Russian experts on the 20th December 1954 presided over by the Chief Minister. The delegation wanted more detailed data before it could express any opinion.